

# The Community VOICE

Rohnert Park, Cotati, & Penngrove

## Print Page

Earth Day trash pick up Sunday in Cotati

By Jenny Blaker  
Friday, April 18, 2008 2:22 AM CDT

All the plastic that has ever been made still exists and will probably exist forever. This is a stunning thought when you think about how much that we buy and use everyday is made from plastic in one form or another.

This and more was the message given by Stuart Moody, representing an organization called the Green Sangha, at a presentation to Transition Cotati April 11. His talk has inspired Transition Cotati and Cotati Creek Critters to combine forces for an Earth Day trash pick up along the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Rohnert Park Sunday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Much of all discarded plastic finds its way into the nearest ditch, creek, stream or river and eventually into the oceans, where it breaks into tiny pieces, but never breaks down completely into its original components. These tiny pieces look like plankton, and there are now parts of the ocean where plastic outweighs zooplankton on a scale of 6:1.

More than 1 million birds, 100,000 whales, seals and turtles and countless fish are killed by plastic rubbish every year. Birds and animals eat it, mistaking it for food and die tragic deaths, their stomachs full of broken plastic bottle tops and other rubbish.

Plastic bags look like the jellyfish that turtles eat and they are swallowed, killing the turtles. There are islands in the mid Pacific which receive huge tides of trash every day, including piles of this plastic rubbish that never goes away.

Plastic has been and is tremendously useful to us for many purposes, but we are going to have to start finding alternatives that are less damaging, for we are literally trashing the oceans, and the planet, with our plastic waste. Eighty percent of the plastic found in the oceans has not been dumped there directly, but washed off the land in waterways and river systems.

The trash pick up will begin at the entrance of the Laguna, a waterway which runs for over 14 miles northwest to enter the Russian River north of Forestville and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean at Jenner. The Laguna is one of the most important and biologically diverse wildlife areas in Sonoma County. So picking up trash upstream in Rohnert Park and Cotati will benefit the environment downstream in the Laguna, the Russian River and ultimately even in the Pacific Ocean.

Jenny Blaker is the Outreach coordinator for the Cotati Creek Critters. She can be contacted at 792-4422.

## The Details:

**When:** Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m.-noon.

**Where:** Liman Way, north of Myrtle Avenue and south of Lansdown Circle, south side.

**Nearest Parking Lot:** Ladybug Park, Liman Way.

**Information:** Call Jenny at 792-4422 or e-mail [jenny@creeks.cotati.info](mailto:jenny@creeks.cotati.info).

[component:image-photo-html]  
[component:image-cutline]